

REMARKS

The Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection.

Claims 4-6 are now pending.

Claim 1, 12-13 and 17 were rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Takaishi, published U.S. Patent Application No. 2001/0030828 (Takaishi). Claims 14-16 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Takaishi in view of Aikawa et al, published U.S. Patent Application No. 2002/0109932 (Aikawa). Claims 4-6 were allowed.

In light of the allowability of Claims 4-6, the Applicants have canceled Claims 1, and 12-17, without prejudice to their being resubmitted in a continuation application. The Applicants make no admission as to the propriety of the rejections, but have canceled Claims 1, and 12-17 to expedite the allowance of Claims 4-6.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the

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Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Daniel J. Stanger", is written over the typed name.

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